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AlphaCD 12/97 Release Notes

As we add more features to the AlphaCD, we want to make sure you get the most possible benefit from using it. We're including this document to explain a few things about it which might not be clear otherwise, and to give you some information about the software which is not included in other documentation. We talk about:

- The versions of AMOS® software and documentation available
- AMOS commands which are included only for compatibility with earlier releases, and shouldn't be used unless necessary
- The contents of the third-party software area: we've added the latest Metropolis release
- A new structure for the AlphaC 2.0 (GNU C) directory files
- Late additions to AlphaTCP 1.4
- The structure of the AM-PC™ 4.2A software section
- Updated office automation products
- The AlphaCONNECT™ products

AMOS VERSIONS AVAILABLE

As always, AlphaCD includes the very latest versions of AMOS: the December patch releases of AMOS 1.4C and AMOS 2.3A. This CD does not include AMOS 2.2C; if for some reason you are reluctant to use AMOS 2.3A instead, you'll need to use the version of AMOS 2.2C from the 10/96 AlphaCD.

While most of the changes and improvements in AMOS 2.3A are invisible to the user, there is a new version of AlphaTCP included, AlphaTCP 1.4, with several new features and abilities. See the *AlphaTCP 1.4 Release Notes*, in the online documentation section of the CD, for details.

AMOS Documentation

We've updated several AMOS software documents for this release: the *System Commands Reference Manual*, *AMOS Monitor Calls Manual*, and lots more. In addition, the documentation for all new or updated AMOS hardware products—the AM-650 Streaming Tape Drive, new disk drives, the AM-90 Lightning Board, and more—is included. Remember, documents that have been added or changed since the last AlphaCD are marked with an asterisk in the table of contents.

AMOS 2.3A, PR 12/97 includes AlphaTCP 1.4. In addition to *Release Notes* and new versions of the two AlphaTCP manuals, the documentation describing the new AlphaTCP includes updates to the *AMOS Monitor Calls Manual* and the *AlphaBASIC XCALL Subroutine User's Manual*.

Revision 02 of the *ISAM PLUS User's Guide*, which was included in a preliminary form on the 6/97 CD, is now finished and included on this CD.

Obsolete AMOS Commands

Several commands are included in the current AMOS release only for compatibility with tapes or other backup media created under older releases. These commands are not actively supported and will not be enhanced. They are:

STRDIR	STRRES	STRSAV
BACKUP	BAKDIR	RESTOR

We strongly recommend you use the MTUxxx commands for all magnetic tape backup.

In the *AMOS System Commands Reference Manual* included on the 12/97 AlphaCD, the list of commands starting on page 6-1 incorrectly marks the MTUxxx commands as obsolete. This is an error, and will be corrected in the next version of the document.

METROPOLIS ADDED TO THE THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE

AlphaCD now includes the latest version of Metropolis, 7.4D, as unsupported third-party software. The addition of such a widely-used product provides a good opportunity to review what else is available in this manner on the CD:

- AlphaLAN 6.2
- Starr Accounting 4.07
- Soft Machines products
- A number of utility and informational commands in the “Unsupported Software” logical device, ACD26:. This device now includes the COMPR/EXPAND file compression programs.

Remember, these products are provided as a convenience for the developers and end users. Alpha Micro has not tested or qualified these programs, and takes no responsibility for their installation or use. If you have any questions about any of these products, please contact the developer.

NEW GNU C DIRECTORY FILES

In the past, GCC.DIR, the directory file for AlphaC 2.0 (GNU C), included all GNU C files, including the source files. Since most users do not install the source files, this made it difficult to verify the software—the “missing” source files generated lots of spurious error messages. On this CD, the GNU C directory file has been split into two: GCC.DIR[1,2], which includes all files except the source files, and GCCSRC.DIR[65,0], which lists the source files only. To verify your installation, first use GCC.DIR. You should not receive any error messages. Then, if you did install the source files, verify using GCCSRC.DIR. You may need to change the device listed in the GCCSRC.DIR file to match the device where you installed the source files.

UNDOCUMENTED FEATURE IN ALPHATCP 1.4

In addition to all of the enhancements listed in the *AlphaTCP 1.4 Release Notes*, DSS-10584-00, a new feature was added to the AlphaTCP 1.4 software too late to be included in the documentation. This new feature, the URL command and AlphaBASIC subroutine, is described here. This information will be added to the next release of the AlphaTCP documentation.

URL - An HTTP and FTP Download Utility

Description

AlphaTCP's new URL command and subroutine let you retrieve a file from a remote system by specifying its *Universal Resource Locator*, or *url*. The *url* is the familiar notation used to specify World Wide Web pages, such as *www.alphamicro.com/oldocs*.

To avoid confusion, when talking about the URL command or subroutine, we'll use all capital letters; when talking about the Universal Resource Locator of a file on the Internet, we'll use lower-case italics, *url*.

*url*s can refer not only to web pages, but also to text or binary files at an FTP site. AlphaTCP's URL feature can retrieve any of these file types, using either the HTTP or FTP protocol as appropriate. When using FTP, URL supports wildcards, and can transfer contiguous files from another AMOS computer.

As mentioned above, URL is supplied as both an AMOS command, URL.LIT, and an AlphaBASIC subroutine, URL.SBR. Each is described below. If you plan to use the AlphaBASIC subroutine, also read the section on the command. The subroutine arguments include a string formatted in the same manner as the command line.

Format of a *url*

A *url* consists of three parts separated by slashes: a *method*, *system*, and *path*:

- Though *method* could be many different things, URL supports either *http://* or *ftp://*, with *http://* being the default if no method is specified.
- The *system* portion may be either a host name or IP address.
- *Path* is interpreted by the remote system. It often specifies a subdirectory and a filename, though it might invoke a program or perform a search instead.

Here are two example *urls*, one using the FTP protocol and the other using HTTP:

ftp://ds.internic.net/rfc/rfc1123.txt
http://smtpgw.alphamicro.com/anon/files.txt

Using *urls* With AMOS

The AlphaTCP web server and FTP server handle the path portion of a *url* in the same way. It is scanned for a filename, and either an ersatz name or device and account. If no ersatz, or device and account, is specified, the file is assumed to exist in the default login directory. With HTTP, a question mark indicates a query, and causes the server to scan the web applications list. When using FTP, question marks and asterisk are used as wildcards in a file name.

The first example below uses HTTP to reference the default page (home.htm) in the ersatz WEBPPN: on the local system; the second one refers to a specific binary file:

http://localhost/webppn/
http://localhost/webppn/demo.lit

The following *url* references all the system commands on another system with the FTP protocol:

ftp://backup.widget.com/sys/*.lit

URL follows the same security rules as other AlphaTCP features. Using HTTP, the file PUBLIC.PPN must exist in the account where the file you want to access is located. Using FTP, the login must have read privileges; if the file to be retrieved is not in the default login account, it must also be allowed to change directories

The URL Command

The command line version of URL retrieves files from the AMOS prompt. Its syntax is also used in one of the AlphaBASIC subroutine arguments. This syntax is:

```
URL {flags} {outputfile=}{proto://}hostname{:port}/path/filename
```

flags is optional and consists of one or more of the following:

/A	Transfer files in ASCII mode (FTP only)
/D	Output debug information to the screen
/K	Kill remote files after transfer (FTP only)
/L:*name*	Log in using login *name* (FTP only)
/N	Nodelete, don't delete existing local files
/P:*pass*	Log in using password *pass* (FTP only)
/Q	Query for each file
/S	Suppress screen output
/T	Enable twinkle progress indicator
/U	Generate unique local filenames

Case does not matter for the flags, but might be important for ***name*** and ***pass***.

Outputfile lets you save a remote file to a specific name. Wildcards are not supported for the output file. You can send the file to the screen by using TRM: as the outputfile, or to a printer by using TRM0:pname or TLP0:pname.

Proto:// is optional and may be either *http://* or *ftp://*. The default is *http://*.

Some systems run their web or FTP servers on non-standard port numbers. The optional ***:port*** specification is the standard method used in a *url* to override the port number.

Assuming the login "orders" exists with the password "opwd" and the proper privileges, this example retrieves all .ORD files from the login account on the remote system "sales.widget.com." Each file transferred is deleted on the remote host.

```
URL /k /l:orders /p:opwd ftp://sales.widget.com/*.ord RETURN
```

Since the files are in this login's default account, the login does not need to be able to change directories.

A system administrator could use this example to retrieve all of the terminal drivers from another system:

```
URL /l:admin /p:admpwd ftp://template.widget.com/dvr/*.tdv RETURN
```

The URL.SBR AlphaBASIC Subroutine

URL.SBR provides an AlphaBASIC program with the same capabilities as the URL command. It has the following restrictions:

- Only one connection can be active at a time
- It cannot be used in a program along with TCP.SBR

Initiating a Transfer

The calling format for the subroutine is:

XCALL URL, Impure, Timeout, Status, Files, Xfered, Url

Impure is an unformatted area for use by URL. It must be at least 6000 bytes in size, and must be cleared before use. The entire area *must* be cleared to zeros before each connection is established.

Timeout specifies the number of timer ticks (10000=1 second) to remain in URL before returning to BASIC. Specifying zero causes URL to remain in control until the transfer is completed.

Status is filled in by URL with one of these values:

0	Completed, success
1	Still running, keep calling
2	Completed, remote error
3	Completed, local error
4	Completed, connection error
5	Completed, syntax error in specified *url*

Your program can use the status value to determine if a transfer was successful or not. When specifying a time-out period, you can also use it to determine if the XCALL will need to be called again to perform further work on a transfer in progress.

Files is filled in by URL with the number of files attempted.

Xfered is filled in by URL with the number of files successfully transferred. This matches ***files*** unless an error occurs or the XCALL is in the process of performing a transfer.

Url is a string which contains the same format as the command line version, including any flags and/or output file specification.

Terminating a Transfer

You may sometimes want to stop a transfer in progress. This needs to be done if you are performing a transfer and decide to chain to another program, or when your program encounters an error and your error trapping must perform housekeeping. Simply omitting all of the arguments except the impure area will stop any existing transfer:

```
XCALL URL, Impure RETURN
```

You will likely only need to use this if you are using the Timeout argument to return to your program. If Timeout is zero, you should never find yourself in control with a pending transfer.

AM-PC 4.2A STRUCTURE

AlphaCD includes an update to AM-PC 4.2A, incorporating AMOS 2.3A, PR 12/97. In the AM-PC area, there are five subdirectories. The first of these contains a single executable file which you can use to install AM-PC directly from the CD. The other four directories are diskette images which you can copy to diskette and use to install AM-PC at customer sites when you cannot use the AlphaCD. When creating installation diskettes, you must give the diskettes these labels:

AMPC_1
AMPC_2
AMPC_3
AMPC_4

The installation program looks for these exact labels; you will not be able to install the software from diskette if the diskettes are not labeled properly.

UPDATED OFFICE AUTOMATION SOFTWARE

This AlphaCD includes updated releases of both AlphaWRITE 2.2 (PR 12/97), and AlphaMAIL (version 1.2A). The changes included in these new versions are listed in:

- *AlphaWRITE 2.2, PR 12/97 Release Notes*, DSS-10589-00, Rev. A00
- *AlphaMAIL 1.2A Release Notes*, DSS-10578-00, Rev. A00

Both of these documents are available in the online documentation section of the CD.

THE AlphaCONNECT PRODUCTS

The DOS side of AlphaCD continues to include the latest released versions of both of our AlphaCONNECT products: AlphaCONNECT Pro 1.1a and AlphaCONNECT StockVue 2.0.

These products are in subfolders under the \Connect folder. For installation instructions, see the \Connect\Readme.txt file.

For more information about our AlphaCONNECT product line, visit the AlphaCONNECT World Wide Web site at *http://www.alphaconnect.com*.